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SECURITY INFORMATION

REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR

DATE DISTR. 31 Jul 53

SUBJECT Jet Aircraft Research and Development

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DATE
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DATE OF INFORMATION

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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2.

an aircraft plant near Moscow.

the plant had manufactured propeller-driven aircraft.

they were mostly fighter planes and some biplanes. After this soldier had worked there for some time

work was begun on the development and research of jet aircraft.

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3. considerable difficulty was encountered in developing a tail assembly which could withstand the effects of traveling at speeds near the speed of sound. The aircraft being developed and tested were jet fighters with swept-back wings. At the beginning of the experimentation, the empennage had been set rather low - "similar to American jet aircraft". When this type

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of plane was tested, however, the entire empennage was torn off at speeds close to the speed of sound. New empennage designs and new types of metal were then tried. Many aircraft were tested through a succession of new designs in which the empennage was placed higher and higher, and numerous new metal alloys were used in its construction. [redacted] all the aircraft tested flew well at normal speeds; but when the pilot increased his speed to the maximum, either approaching or reaching the speed of sound, the tail always disintegrated causing the aircraft to crash. [redacted]

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4. [redacted] the tests usually took place towards evening, and [redacted] anybody not connected with the plant was prohibited from entering the premises. [redacted] many such experimental aircraft crashed, and always because of the tail assembly. [redacted]

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[redacted] the reason why the empennage failed to hold together was that it was set too low and the exhaust of the jet engines weakened the metal in the tail assembly; wind resistance at high speeds then tore the tail assembly off. [redacted]

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[redacted] no headway had been made in solving the problems of the tail assembly. [redacted]

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5. [redacted] not a single pilot was saved when the experimental planes crashed, despite the fact that each plane being tested had an ejection seat. None of the pilots were ever ejected. Upon being asked why this was the case, [redacted] perhaps it was due to malfunctioning of the ejection apparatus or to the pilots' losing consciousness. [redacted] any attempts being made to discover the reason why none of the pilots were ejected. [redacted]

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6. [redacted] the plant was very large. [redacted] it had a large drafting and design section [redacted]

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